

## Women Cast First Ballot Like Veterans

Inspectors Startled at Intelligence Displayed by Suffragists at Polls

## Knitting Bags and Babies Invade Booths

Only 1 Voter Challenged, and She Wouldn't Tell Her Age

Apple pie entered into the political life of New York City yesterday, likewise the baby carriage, the grandmother and the woman "ward heeler." With 90 per cent of the registered women coming out to vote and a scant half of the registered men, the whole complexion of the polling places was changed.

Men apologized for smoking. Women watchers flashed their diamond rings and lozenges over the much-thumbed lists of voters handed them by district leaders. Policemen, hired to quell riots, found themselves put on guard over the baby carriages. Even the missionary carries his typewriter and the Briton his club into the wilderness, so the women, far from discarding their peculiar prerogatives, as some of the "cause" so long predicted, carried their knitting bags and their powder puffs into the polling places.

"It ain't nothing to vote," said a toothless Irishman emerging from a candy store on Eighth Avenue with a grin which revealed all her dental deficiencies. "They was just tryin' to scare us. I did it just as easy. Go on in now, Mamie."

**Women Vote Intelligently**  
Election inspectors found the new voters quite as intelligent as the veterans. Take it from J. Newton O'Brien, Republican inspector at 2401 Eighth Avenue, the women voted more expeditiously than their husbands.

"You can't give 'em any arguments," said he. "They just put down their marks and away with 'em. They voted quicker than the men."

This was the district where the apple pie made its entrance into politics, so perhaps Mr. O'Brien was prejudiced. It was Mrs. Guida Stoppenkam, 22 years old, who thought of this improvement on the ancient custom whereby the first voter must present the election inspectors with a candy.

"I haven't any cigars, but I'll bring you an apple pie," she said.

This district has been a stronghold of the cause for years. It was one of the few that carried for suffrage in 1915 under the captaincy of Mrs. Edith Valet.

The large numbers of women voting were the cause of great joy at the headquarters last night. Miss Mary Garrett Hay, "boss" of the Woman Suffrage party, kept open house last night to receive the returns from her watchers at every precinct.

"The 13th Assembly District of Manhattan was the first to turn in complete returns. There 1,824 women had registered and 1,651 voted. This was just over 90 per cent, and held good throughout the city."

The first thing she did then was to call up Mrs. Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, in Washington, and tell her that now the last argument against the women's vote had been killed and she could go ahead and get the Federal suffrage amendment put through the Senate.

"Federal suffrage within a week," Miss Hay announced with a gleam in her eye. "I usually am right when I make suffrage predictions, and I'll stand by this one."

**Miss Hay Thanks Men**  
Miss Hay extended Mrs. Catt's compliments to the men who voted for their splendid record, and then issued the following formal statement, in reference to the vote:

"The women voters of New York City who took part in the Congressional elections have fully justified the bestowal upon them of the franchise by the State of New York. They voted in large numbers, 90 per cent of those registered going to the polls and casting their ballots. They voted in a direct, businesslike way, that won praise from the men inspectors. They voted intelligently, taking the trouble to read the instructions and the enlightening information about the candidates for office."

"While comparisons are sometimes odious they are often illuminating. Of the men who registered in the four Congressional districts, only about 26 per cent voted. Contrasted with the 90 per cent standard set up by their sisters, this is a showing that justifies the prediction often made by suffragists during the campaign, that women will make more conscientious voters than men. I believe that this is true, although I think that as time passes women in the East, like the women in the West, will inspire the indifferent men to take a greater interest in politics and to vote in greater numbers."

"The City Suffrage party is most pleased with the way the women came out to vote and with the treatment accorded them. We wish that the political parties for appointing women watchers at the polls and the Boards of Elections for the dignified and cordial way in which they met the new voters. I am sure that everywhere the women who voted feel that they have been welcomed into politics most courteously by their voting brothers. The leaders and captains of the City Suffrage party did valiant work showing the women in the election districts where to vote and helping them in many ways. Altogether I feel that the 5th of March, 1918, will be a red letter day in the history of the women's vote in New York State."

Miss Rose Callahan, a school teacher, came to grips with the law over the vexed question of age. When she appeared to cast her vote, in a rooming house at 2386 Second Avenue, she was challenged by Mario De Piro, Republican leader of the 14th Election District, Manhattan. She had given her age as "over twenty-five," and Mr. De Piro insisted that she should state a definite number of years.

Mrs. John Blair and Miss Clara Schlingheide, suffrage watchers in the district, took Miss Callahan's side, and Miss Schlingheide rushed out to telephone to the Board of Elections. She returned with the verdict that Miss Callahan might vote if she swore to her vote. This she did.

Mrs. Charles Tiffany, chairman of the Borough of Manhattan for the Woman Suffrage party, did valiant service in getting the women voters in a candy store at 1955 Lexington avenue were found a disqualifying voter.

"I can't get to vote," the woman

## Results of Congress Elections

21st District, Manhattan									
A.D.	Bolles (Rep.)	Donovan (Dem.)	Cannon (Pro.)	Mrs. Colvin Ransom (Ind.)	Men's vote.	Women's vote.	Total	Percentage	Percentage
13	1,339	2,380	326	37	2,546	1,628	4,174	61	39
19	915	358	136	34	241	1,406	1,647	14	86
21	2,032	2,431	309	65	152	2,882	3,034	50	50
22	2,317	2,653	325	53	2	3,183	2,167	73	27
23	3,019	3,393	639	177	3	4,538	2,693	60	40
Totals	9,623	11,724	1,735	382	465	14,557	9,372	61	39

Donovan's plurality, 2,101.

Percentage of registered women voting (approximately), 88.

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